

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved funding for arts and cultural attractions in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Olver secured the funding in the FY07 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development (HUTREU) appropriations bill.

Olver is the Ranking Member (most senior Democrat) of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies.

The Senate must still approve its appropriations bill and then both chambers would have to approve a final bill.

\$250,000 for Barrington Stage Company

Barrington Stage Company (BSC) is a not-for-profit professional theatre company founded in 1995. In 2005, BSC moved into downtown Pittsfield.

"Barrington Stage Company's move into downtown Pittsfield fits well into the overall economic revitalization of the city," said Olver.

BSC is renovating the Berkshire Music Hall to be used as its new Mainstage home and the accompanying offices.

For more information on this project, contact: Julianne Boyd, BSC, at 413 229-2076, ext. 101

\$325,000 for Berkshire Museum

The Berkshire Museum in downtown Pittsfield attracts 90,000 visitors each year from Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut.

"Unlike many of the seasonal venues in Berkshire County, the Berkshire Museum provides services year-round," said Olver.

The funding will assist the Berkshire Museum with several improvements including redesign of the interior spaces.

The museum has a permanent collection of more than 25,000 objects of fine art, history and natural science.

The museum was founded in 1903 by Zenas Crane of Crane & Company paper makers in Dalton, Massachusetts.

For more information about this project, contact:

Stuart A. Chase, Executive Director, Berkshire Museum, at 413-443-7171

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